



**Billing Code 4333–15**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Fish and Wildlife Service**

**[FWS–R3–ES–2018–N014; FXES11130300000–189–FF03E00000]**

**Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Permit Applications**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, invite the public to comment on applications for permits to conduct activities intended to enhance the propagation or survival of endangered or threatened species. Federal law prohibits certain activities with endangered species unless a permit is obtained.

**DATES:** We must receive any written comments on or before **[INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*]**.

**ADDRESSES:** Send written comments by U.S. mail to the Regional Director, Attn: Carlita Payne, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services, 5600 American Blvd. West, Suite 990, Bloomington, MN 55437–1458; or by electronic mail to [permitsR3ES@fws.gov](mailto:permitsR3ES@fws.gov).

***Requesting Copies of Applications or Public Comments:*** Copies of applications or public comments concerning any of the applications in this notice may be obtained by any party who submits a written request for a copy of such documents to the above-mentioned office within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice, subject to the requirements of the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a) and the Freedom of Information Act (5.U.S.C. 552).

***Submitting Comments:*** You may submit comments by one of the following methods. Please specify applicant name(s) and application number(s) to which your comments pertain (e.g., **TEXXXXXX**).

- *Email:* [permitsR3ES@fws.gov](mailto:permitsR3ES@fws.gov). Please refer to the respective permit number (e.g., Application No. **TEXXXXXX**) in the subject line of your email message.
- *U.S. Mail:* Regional Director, Attn: Carlita Payne (address above).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Carlita Payne, 612 –713–5343; [permitsR3ES@fws.gov](mailto:permitsR3ES@fws.gov)

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, invite the public to comment on the following applications for a permit to conduct activities

intended to enhance the propagation or survival of endangered or threatened species. Federal law prohibits certain activities with endangered species unless a permit is obtained.

## **Background**

The Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.; ESA), prohibits certain activities with endangered and threatened species unless the activities are specifically authorized by a Federal permit. The ESA and our implementing regulations in part 17 of title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) provide for the issuance of such permits and require that we invite public comment before issuing permits for activities involving endangered species.

A permit granted by us under section 10(a)(1)(A) of the ESA authorizes the permittee to conduct activities with U.S. endangered or threatened species for scientific purposes, enhancement of propagation or survival, or interstate commerce (the latter only in the event that it facilitates scientific purposes or enhancement of propagation or survival). Our regulations implementing section 10(a)(1)(A) of the ESA for these permits are found at 50 CFR 17.22 for endangered wildlife species, 50 CFR 17.32 for threatened wildlife species, 50 CFR 17.62 for endangered plant species, and 50 CFR 17.72 for threatened plant species.

## **Permit Applications Available for Review and Comment**

We invite local, State, Tribal, and Federal agencies and the public to comment on the following applications. Please refer to the permit number when you submit

comments. Documents and other information the applicants have submitted with the applications are available for review, subject to the requirements of the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a) and Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552).

### **Permit Applications**

Proposed activities in the following permit requests are for the recovery and enhancement of propagation or survival of the species in the wild.

<b>Application Number</b>	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Type of Take</b>	<b>Permit Action</b>
TE82666A	Justin Boyles, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL	Indiana bat ( <i>Myotis sodalis</i> ), gray bat ( <i>M. grisescens</i> ), northern long-eared bat ( <i>M. septentrionalis</i> )	AL, AR, GA, IL, IN, IA, KS, KY, MD, MA, MI, MS, MO, NH, NJ, NY, NC, OH, OK, PA, RI, SC, TN, VT, VA, WV, WI	Conduct presence/absence surveys, document habitat use, conduct population monitoring, evaluate impacts	Capture, handle, mist-net, harp trap, radio-tag, data-log, band, wing biopsy, collect hair, blood, fungal lift tape and swab samples, enter hibernacula, release, salvage	Renew
TE21831B	Katherine Caldwell, Asheville, NC	Indiana bat ( <i>Myotis sodalis</i> ), northern long-eared bat ( <i>M. septentrionalis</i> )	AL, AR, CT, GA, IL, IN, IA, KY, MD, MI, MO, NJ, NY, NC, OH, OK, PA, SC, TN, VT, VA, WV	Conduct presence/absence surveys, document habitat use, conduct population monitoring, evaluate impacts	Capture, handle, mist-net, radio-tag, band, wing biopsy, collect hair, fungal lift tape and swab samples, release, salvage	Renew
TE64238B	Jocelyn Karst, Champaign, IL	Indiana bat ( <i>Myotis sodalis</i> ), northern long-eared bat ( <i>M. septentrionalis</i> )	AL, AR, CT, DE, D.C., FL, GA, IL, IN, IA, KS, KY, LA, MD, MA, MI, MN, MS, MO, MT, NE, NH, NJ, NY, NC, ND, OH, OK, PA, RI, SC, SD, TN, VT, VA, WV, WI, WY	Conduct presence/absence surveys, document habitat use, conduct population monitoring, evaluate impacts	Capture, handle, mist-net, radio-tag, band, wing biopsy, collect hair, fungal lift tape and swab samples, release, salvage	Renew
TE74742C	Benjamin Smith,	Indiana bat ( <i>Myotis</i>	AL, AR, CT,	Conduct	Capture, handle,	New

	Springfield, MO	<i>sodalis</i> ), gray bat ( <i>M. grisescens</i> ), northern long-eared bat ( <i>M. septentrionalis</i> )	DE, D.C., FL, GA, IL, IN, IA, KS, KY, LA, ME, MD, MA, MI, MN, MS, MO, NE, NH, NJ, NY, NC, ND, OH, OK, PA, RI, SC, SD, TN, VT, VA, WV, WI, WY	presence/absence surveys, document habitat use, conduct population monitoring, evaluate impacts	mist-net, harp trap, radio-tag, band, wing biopsy, collect hair, fecal, fungal lift tape and swab samples, release	
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## **Public Availability of Comments**

We seek public review and comments on these permit applications. Please refer to the permit number when you submit comments. Comments and materials we receive in response to this notice are available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the address listed in **ADDRESSES**.

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

## ***Contents of Public Comments***

Please make your comments as specific as possible. Please confine your comments to issues for which we seek comments in this notice, and explain the basis for your comments. Include sufficient information with your comments to allow us to authenticate any scientific or commercial data you include.

The comments and recommendations that will be most useful and likely to influence agency decisions are: (1) Those supported by quantitative information or studies; and (2) Those that include citations to, and analyses of, the applicable laws and regulations.

**Next Steps**

If the Service decides to issue permits to any of the applicants listed in this notice, we will publish a notice in the *Federal Register*.

**Authority**

Section 10 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

**Dated:** February 12, 2018.

**Lori H. Nordstrom,  
Assistant Regional Director,  
Ecological Services,  
Midwest Region.**

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